

Protocol Amending the Convention on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Tax Matters (Treaty Doc. No. 112-5);

The Convention on the Law Applicable to Certain Rights in Respect of Securities Held with an Intermediary (Treaty Doc. No. 112-6);

Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Treaty Doc. No. 112-7); and

Tax Convention with Chile (Treaty Doc. No. 112-8).

The treaties were transmitted to the Senate today, considered as having been read for the first time, and referred, with accompanying papers, to the Committee on Foreign Relations and ordered to be printed.

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Watford Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Paul J. Watford, of California, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit.

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A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, and pursuant to the unanimous-consent agreement of Thursday, May 17, 2012, a vote on cloture will occur at approximately 5:30 on Monday, May 21, 2012.

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A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing that at 4:30 p.m., on Monday, May 21, 2012, Senate resume consideration of the nomination, with one hour of debate equally divided and controlled in the usual form, and that upon the use or yielding back of time, Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination; And that if cloture is not invoked, Senate resume legislative session and vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 3187, FDA User Fee.

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Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By 70 yeas to 24 nays (Vote No. EX. 102), Jeremy C. Stein, of Massachusetts, to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System for the unexpired term of fourteen years from February 1, 2004. (Pursuant to the order of Wednesday, May 16, 2012, the nomination having achieved 60 affirmative votes, was confirmed.)

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By 74 yeas to 21 nays (Vote No. EX. 103), Jerome H. Powell, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System for the unexpired term of fourteen years from February 1, 2000. (Pursuant to the order of Wednesday, May 16, 2012, the nomination having achieved 60 affirmative votes, was confirmed.)

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Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Derek J. Mitchell, of Connecticut, to be Ambassador to the Union of Burma.

Matthew W. Brann, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Pennsylvania.

Malachy Edward Mannion, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Pennsylvania.

Gary Blankinship, of Texas, to be United States Marshal for the Southern District of Texas for the term of four years.

1 Army nomination in the rank of general.

1 Navy nomination in the rank of admiral.

A routine list in the Navy.

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Nomination Withdrawn: Senate received notification of withdrawal of the following nomination:

A routine list in the Air Force.

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Messages from the House:

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Measures Referred:

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Executive Communications:

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Executive Reports of Committees:

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Additional Cosponsors:

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Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:

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Additional Statements:

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Amendments Submitted:

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Authorities for Committees to Meet:

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Privileges of the Floor:

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Record Votes: Two record votes were taken today. (Total—103)

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Adjournment: Senate convened at 9:30 a.m. and adjourned at 4:47 p.m., until 2 p.m. on Monday, May 21, 2012. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S3253.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

APPROPRIATIONS: EUROPEAN COMMAND AND SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Department of Defense received a closed briefing on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2013 for European Command and Special Operations Command Programs from Admiral James G. Stavridis, USN, Supreme Allied Commander, Europe, and Commander, United States European Command, and Admiral William H. McRaven, Commander, United States Special Operations Command, both of the Department of Defense.

TSUNAMI GENERATED MARINE DEBRIS

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Subcommittee on Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries, and Coast Guard concluded a hearing to examine the United States response to tsunami generated marine debris, after receiving testimony from David M. Kennedy, Assistant Administrator, Ocean Services and Coastal Zone Management, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce; and Rear Admiral Cari B. Thomas, Assistant Commandant for Response Policy, United States Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security.

CLEAN ENERGY STANDARD ACT

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Committee concluded a hearing to examine S. 2146, to amend the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 to create a market-oriented standard for clean electric energy generation, after receiving testimony from David Sandalow, Assistant Secretary for Policy and International Affairs, and Howard Gruenspecht, Acting Administrator, U.S. Energy Information Administration, both of the Department of Energy; Collin O'Mara, Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control Secretary, Dover; Karen Palmer, Resources for the Future, and Thomas J. Gibson, American Iron and Steel Institute, both of Washington, D.C.; Judi Greenwald, Center for Climate and Energy Solutions, Arlington, Virginia; Keith Trent, Duke Energy, Charlotte, North Carolina; and James A. Dickenson, JEA, Jacksonville, Florida.

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

Committee on Finance: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the Social Security Administration, focusing on saving taxpayer dollars and serving the public, after receiving testimony from Michael J. Astrue, Commissioner, Social Security Administration.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Edward M. Alford, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of The Gambia, Mark L. Asquino, of the District

of Columbia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Equatorial Guinea, Douglas M. Griffiths, of Texas, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Mozambique, and David J. Lane, of Florida, for the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service as U.S. Representative to the United Nations Agencies for Food and Agriculture, who was introduced by Senator Nelson (FL), all of the Department of State, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

FULFILLING FEDERAL TRUST RESPONSIBILITY

Committee on Indian Affairs: Committee concluded an oversight hearing to examine fulfilling the Federal trust responsibility, focusing on the foundation of the government-to-government relationship, after receiving testimony from Melody McCoy, Native American Rights Fund (NARF), Boulder, Colorado; Matthew L.M. Fletcher, Michigan State University College of Law, East Lansing; Daniel I.S.J. Rey-Bear, Nordhaus Law Firm, LLP, Albuquerque, New Mexico; Ray Halbritter, Oneida Indian Nation, Verona, New York; Fawn Sharp, Quinault Indian Nation, Taholah, Washington; Brooklyn D. Baptiste, Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee, Lapwai, Idaho; and Shenan Atcitty, Jicarilla Apache Nation, Washington, D.C.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

S. 2554, to amend title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to extend the authorization of the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program through fiscal year 2017, with amendments;

S. 2276, to permit Federal officers to remove cases involving crimes of violence to Federal court, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute; and

The nominations of David Medine, of Maryland, to be Chairman, James Xavier Dempsey, of California, Elisebeth Collins Cook, of Illinois, Rachel L. Brand, of Iowa, and Patricia M. Wald, of the District of Columbia, all to be a Member of the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board.